

Having thus described the invention, it is so claimed:

1. In an ink container shell for an ink jet cartridge having a chamber for receiving ink and an optical ink detection device in the chamber, said device including an interface surface for reflecting light in a scan plane from a first to a second exterior area relative to the container shell when an ink level in the chamber recedes to a given level, the improvement comprising: said ink
5 detection device including at least two elements.
2. The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said at least two elements include a recess of light transmitting material in a wall of the chamber and an optical prism received in said recess.
3. The improvement according to claim 2, and an optical gel between said recess and said prism.
4. The improvement according to claim 3, wherein said prism is triangular.
5. The improvement according to claim 4, wherein said prism is releasably held in said recess.
6. The improvement according to claim 5, wherein said prism has a snap-fit interengagement with said recess.
7. The improvement according to claim 6, wherein said wall of said chamber is a bottom wall.
8. The improvement according to claim 2, wherein, said prism is releasably held in said recess.

9. The improvement according to claim 8, wherein said prism has a snap-fit interengagement with said recess.
10. The improvement according to claim 9, and an optical gel between said recess and said prism.
11. The improvement according to claim 10, said wall of said chamber is a bottom wall.
12. The improvement according to claim 2, wherein said wall of said chamber is a bottom wall.
13. The improvement according to claim 12, wherein said prism is releasably held in said recess.
14. The improvement according to claim 13, and an optical gel between said recess and said prism.
15. The improvement according to claim 14, wherein said prism is triangular.
16. The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said at least two elements include separate first and second optical prisms adjacent one another in said chamber.
17. The improvement according to claim 16, wherein said at least two elements includes a third optical prism separate from and adjacent one of said first and second prisms.
18. The improvement according to claim 17, wherein each said first, second and third optical prism is triangular.
19. The improvement according to claim 16, wherein said chamber includes a wall and said first and second prisms are on said wall.

20. The improvement according to claim 19, wherein said first and second prisms are integral with said wall.

21. The improvement according to claim 20, wherein said at least two elements includes a third optical prism separate from and adjacent one of said first and second prisms.

22. The improvement according to claim 21, wherein each said first, second and third optical prism is triangular.

23. The improvement according to claim 19, wherein said wall is a bottom wall and said first and second prisms are integral with said bottom wall.

24. The improvement according to claim 23, and a third optical prism on and integral with said bottom wall, said third prism being separate from said first and second prisms.

25. The improvement according to claim 24, wherein each said first, second and third optical prism is triangular.

26. The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said at least two elements include at least one optical prism separate from said shell and mounting elements on said shell and prism for mounting said prism on said shell.

27. The improvement according to claim 26, wherein said mounting elements include an opening in said shell and interengaging snap-fit components in said opening and on said prism.